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WILLIAM M. LAFAN  
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Mr. Bowen.  
Incompatibility has developed between Minister Bowen and at least one of the representatives of the three allied Governments in conference with him at Washington. The hitch seems to result from an impression on the part of the British Ambassador that Mr. Bowen's personal methods in diplomacy are a little too strenuous.

It is not advisable to discuss the correctness of this impression. Frankness and energy are fine qualities in a young man, or in a middle-aged man, or in an old man. Manifestations of these qualities may easily be misunderstood, however; and if the misunderstanding occurred at the critical stage of delicate negotiations almost at the edge of success that is really desirable, the event is particularly unfortunate.

The failure of the present negotiations with the Venezuelan agent—for Mr. Bowen does not represent the United States in any sense in this business—would merely block a short-cut that unexpectedly opened after his arrival from Caracas. It would not necessarily diminish the prospect of a peaceful adjustment by the method first contemplated.

If Mr. Bowen has given just cause of offense to Sir Michael Herbert and the British Foreign Office by too much candor in his utterances and too much emphasis in his tones, let us hope that Mr. Bowen will carry his frankness to the extent of a characteristically frank and square apology.

Then let the gentlemen strike hands and proceed as before with the discussion concerning the exact number of months of preferential treatment which will be satisfactory to England, Germany and Italy from the point of view of their national honor.

And if the hands don't get together and the discussion of details does not proceed, then there is The Hague.

## The Change of Attitude Toward Property.

While the House is considering and debating the impossible Laffitt bill, Senator Wellington has arisen at the other end of the Capitol to introduce "by request" a joint resolution for the limitation of private fortunes by Constitutional amendment.

The text of the proposed Wellington amendment is this:

"No citizen or resident of any of the States, Territories or District composing the United States shall be permitted to possess, in any or all kinds of property, an aggregate value of more than ten millions of dollars, when said sum shall be the limit of private property in any or all individual, joint, individual, guardian, trustee, agent, or other form of estate of private estate ownership, or holding, or trust, or otherwise, shall be found to exceed, in amount of property concerned, the limit herein named, the excess shall be considered, whether or not as a public nuisance, a public nuisance, or a public pest, and be accordingly forfeited into the United States Treasury. And the States, and all courts, shall each and all enforce this amendment in any instance, Congress shall so enforce it."

The main argument for such an amendment of the fundamental law is tersely set forth in the preamble: Business has grown enormously since the Constitution was adopted, and "the framers of the Constitution would undoubtedly have provided some limiting article which they have foreseen the need."

It is at the request of some other sociologist that Senator Wellington becomes responsible for the introduction of this measure to limit private possessions to \$10,000,000 in the case of any individual, and to confiscate the excess and turn the same into the United States Treasury.

Who can have requested it? The original suggestion that the change of conditions since the Constitution was framed necessitates a change of attitude on the part of Government toward property was made by Theodore Roosevelt, then Vice-President of the United States, at Minneapolis, nearly eighteen months ago.

The place was the Minnesota State Fair, but although a multitude of farmers were present to hear the Vice-President speak they did not form the only element, or even the most considerable part of his audience on that occasion. The time was September 2, 1901, which happened to be Labor Day. Many thousands of workmen from the factories and shops of Minneapolis and St. Paul, who could not have attended otherwise, took advantage of the holiday and went to hear Mr. Roosevelt.

Of his audience of agriculturists and workmen, Mr. Roosevelt said:

"The vast individual and corporate fortunes, the vast combinations of capital which have made the development of our industrial system, create new conditions and necessitate a change from the old attitude of the State and Nation toward property."

This was the seed-thought. Through circumstances unforeseen by Mr. Roosevelt, his startling declaration that the time had come for a change of attitude on the part of State and Nation toward property failed to receive the consideration which its importance deserved. Only four days after the first public utterance of the Roosevelt doctrine, there occurred at Buffalo a tragedy which fixed public attention on other matters than theories about the proper distribution of wealth. The nation's grief over McKinley's death, the nation's interest in the new situation created by that event, obliterated for a

time the recollection of the Minneapolis speech of Mr. Roosevelt. That speech, with its doctrine of a changed attitude on the part of Government toward property, might have been forgotten for all time, if President Roosevelt had not of his own volition returned to the subject months afterward in his first annual message to Congress, and again a year afterward in his series of speeches on the stump in New England and elsewhere.

The Wellington Constitutional amendment is only one of the consequences and corollaries of the Minneapolis Doctrine. Its author has followed logically the line of thought indicated by Vice-President Roosevelt on Labor Day of 1901. If his conclusion is more extreme than the propositions of some other of the sociologists and Socialists whom Mr. Roosevelt set a-thinking, the difference is in degree and not in principle.

Moreover, the Wellington programme possesses one distinct advantage over many of the other plans to bring about a change in the old attitude of government toward property—the attitude of protection in the equal rights of the large possessor and the small.

The Wellington plan recognizes the Constitution and seeks neither to disobey it directly nor to get around it by sophistical evasion. It proposes to move the Constitutional objection to a change of the old attitude of government toward property by amending the Constitution itself. That is the only legitimate and only possible way.

## A Notable Event in the Senate.

Senator Morgan's zeal to perfect a treaty with Colombia by which the United States may proceed to construct a canal across the Isthmus of Panama received a rude shock yesterday afternoon when the Senator's eloquence was choked off by a ruling of the Chair at the seventeen hundred and ninety-sixth page of his carefully prepared remarks on the subject.

It was cruel, but necessary.

As this is the first time on record that the Hon. JOHN T. MORGAN of Alabama ever stopped talking until his own sense of propriety or lack of breath induced him to desist, the importance and interest of the incident will be universally recognized.

## Mr. Carnegie and Homer.

Pausing in his beneficent task of scattering library buildings and increasing municipal taxes with a smiling hand, Mr. ANDREW CARNEGIE enriches the world with a piece of literary criticism. He is dissatisfied with HOMER and iracund and inexorable ACHILLES. The heroes of the long-haired Achaean are distasteful to our Scotch MATTHEW ARNOLD. His views are so original that they deserve to be given in his own words:

"I think for one thing that it is very good thing for the universities to banish the antique heroes upon which they have been feeding their students for centuries. It might have been very well in past ages to dally such a figure as Homer, but that time has now passed. There have been enough heroes and heroines in this country to write about and perpetuate without filling the minds of students with extravagant tales of mythical heroes upon which they have been feeding their students for centuries. It might have been very well in past ages to dally such a figure as Homer, but that time has now passed. There have been enough heroes and heroines in this country to write about and perpetuate without filling the minds of students with extravagant tales of mythical heroes upon which they have been feeding their students for centuries. It might have been very well in past ages to dally such a figure as Homer, but that time has now passed. 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